

Message Text

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53

ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3883

INFO CINCPAC

DIA

UNCLAS BANGKOK 9113

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH

SUBJ: SANYA ON ELECTIONS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PRIME MINISTER SANYA THAMMASAK HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE ON JUNE 1, 1974. FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF HIS COMMENTS ON COMING ELECTIONS:

REPORTER WHAT IS YOUR VIEW REGARDING THE MANY AMENDMENTS MADE TO THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION?

SANYA I DON'T KNOW BECAUSE THAT CONCERNS THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. THE GOVERNMENT INTRODUCED IT IN THE ASSEMBLY, AND IT IS THE DUTY OF ALL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS TO STUDY IT AND MAKE DECISIONS, AND IT IS NO LONGER THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT. IT IS, HOWEVER, THE GREATEST DESIRE OF THIS GOVERNMENT FOR THE CONSTITUTION TO BE PROMULGATED AND PUT IN FORCE SPEEDILY IN ORDER THAT A GENERAL ELECTION CAN BE HELD AND A HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SET UP WHICH IS COMPOSED OF MEMBERS DIRECTLY ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE, AND FOR US TO HAVE A TRUE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE. I CONSIDER THAT MY FORMER GOVERNMENT AND THE PRESENT ONE ARE GOVERNMENTS OF

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THE PEOPLE BECAUSE WE LISTEN TO ALL VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE

PEOPLE IN ALL MATTERS, AND WE WILL CONTINUE LISTENING TO THEM THROUGHOUT, DESPITE THE FACT THAT WE ARE NOT A GOVERNMENT DIRECTLY ELECTED. IN THE FUTURE WE HOPE WE WILL HAVE A GOVERNMENT ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES. AN APPEAL MAY BE MADE TO YOU TO HELP SEE THAT ALL SIDES COOPERATE IN REQUESTING THE CONSTITUTION TO BE PUT IN FORCE IN AUGUST, AS PROFESSOR KHUKRIT SAID, AND FOR A GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD IN NOVEMBER, AS PROFESSOR KHUKRIT ALSO SAID. ON MY PART, I WILL MAKE ARRANGEMENTS IN FULL FOR THE HOLDING OF A GENERAL ELECTION ON TIME AND IN AN ORDERLY MANNER. WE HAVE MADE MANY PREPARATION ALREADY AND WE WILL CONCENTRATE ON COMPLETING THEM IN TIME.

MASTERS

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